

(WASHINGTON) - U.S. Representative Chet Edwards supported House passage of HR 4213 to provide tax relief to middle class families and businesses, and allow Texas taxpayers to continue to deduct local and state sales taxes from their federal income taxes. The bill was approved by the House Wednesday December 9th by a vote of 241 to 181.

"This legislation provides tax relief for hard-working Texas families and makes the right investments to encourage businesses to invest in research and develop new products," said Edwards. "As our economy is beginning to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression, middle class tax cuts like these will help create thousands of good-paying American jobs."

H.R. 4213 extends the state sales tax deduction, which could be worth several hundred dollars for a Texas family of four that itemizes deductions on its federal tax return. Congressman Edwards has worked on a bipartisan basis since 2004 to extend the sales tax deduction provision for Texas taxpayers.

"The principle behind making sales taxes deductible is simple - the federal government has no business penalizing taxpayers in states like Texas that choose to use a state sales tax instead of an income tax," said Edwards.

The legislation also supports businesses and provides tax relief to millions of American families. The bill extends the research and development tax credit to spur American innovation and business investment and cuts taxes for millions of Americans, including teachers, college students and families.

Specifically, the bill includes \$17 billion in business tax relief, \$5 billion in tax cuts for individuals, and nearly \$7 billion for tax provisions that encourage charitable contributions, provide community development incentives and disaster relief, and support the production and use of alternative vehicles and fuels.

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